

## **OLD MILVERTON AND BLACKDOWN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 11TH. JULY 2017 AT OLD MILVERTON VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs.A.Kelsey (in the Chair), J.Emmerson and W.M.O. Tansey; County Councillor W.Redford; District Councillors G.H.Cain and Miss H.Grainger.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Mrs. L.Keeling (out of the country) and J.M.Lander (out of the country); and District Councillor Mrs. A.M.Stevens.

#### **1829. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup>. May 2017 were approved for signature by the Chairman.

#### **1830. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

(a). The Traffic and Road Safety Group of Warwickshire County Council had indicated that it would not be feasible to impose a 30 mph traffic speed limit on Stoneleigh Road, Blackdown, since the existing 40 mph limit was more suitable for the environment. This location was not on the list of areas for review since its accident record did not merit it. It was agreed that Speed Gun readings should be recorded over the coming months in case they indicated a need to ask for a reconsideration of the position.

(b). Councillors and the Clerk had attended the consultation at Coventry Airport on proposed alteration of flight paths which would bring them nearer the centre of Old Milverton and Blackdown. It was agreed that overtures should be made and Cllr. Lander was arranging to set out the Parish Council's concerns before the end of July.

(c). Having received assurances about the steps being taken to limit light "leaking" from the new pitch lighting, the Parish Council's support for Leamington Rugby Football Club's proposed developments had been given, to enable the Club to qualify for grant funding.

(d). Confirmation had been given that the Parish Council's submission had been included in the observations on the CIL Draft Charging Schedule, but under the name of the Clerk.

#### **1831. OLD MILVERTON STREET FURNITURE**

(a). The Clerk reported that the old village notice board at Old Milverton had been removed and the bricks in the wall behind it made secure, the new half barrel installed for plants and the village bench newly stained.

(b). The Clerk had obtained a quotation from The Sign Maker, Yelland Farm, High Bickington, Umlerleigh, Devon EX37 9BX for the provision of a sign in cast polyurethane, similar to metal, indicating "Site of old Village Pound for stray animals" for the sum of £278.00. It was agreed to accept this unless Cllr. Emmerson or District Councillor Cain were able to identify a sign at significantly less cost.

#### **1832. WARWICK DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN**

(a). Confirmation had been received from Warwick District Council that the land adjacent to Old Milverton Lane, initially earmarked for housing in the Local Plan but now deleted, had inadvertently been included as a search area for a Park and Ride facility and that it had been officially omitted.

(b). The only remaining aspect of the Plan with which the Parish Council now took issue was the inclusion of two search areas in Blackdown for a Park and Ride facility. Advice had been obtained from Hunter Page that a legal challenge could be made to the adoption of the Local Plan on the basis of procedural error, since it had been understood that these areas would be omitted as well as that adjacent to old Milverton Lane. To do this it would be necessary to select counsel and to prepare a briefing paper. Estimated cost of taking this course were from £750 to £2,000 for advice on merits, from £750 to £2,000 drafting grounds and from £2,500 to £10,000 for the necessary skeleton argument, preparation and hearing, all plus VAT, and depending on the experience of the barrister. Taking these matters into consideration, it was resolved not to take the matter further at present, but to rely on the

infeasibility of the proposals, and if and when the matter might be resurrected in the future, to employ a professional company such as Hunter Page, to oppose any such proposal.

### **1833. OLD MILVERTON AND BLACKDOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

It remained for Cllr. Lander to convene a meeting to discuss the way forward for completion of the Old Milverton and Blackdown Neighbourhood Plan.

### **1834. OLD MILVERTON VILLAGE HALL MAINTENANCE**

A letter was received from Old Milverton Village Hall Committee indicating that the flat roof at the rear had been replaced and that the work had been satisfactorily completed. During the course of the work it had been decided to upgrade the specification of the fascia to a matt black finish, since the originally specified gloss white plastic was not regraded as appropriate for the building. The cost of the work had been £6,378 (including VAT) and a grant of £4,603 had been obtained from Warwick District Council. The Parish Council was asked to make a grant of £1,500 from the £2,000 fund agreed towards its maintenance costs. It was agreed that this grant be made and noted that the Committee would apply for the remaining £500 as and when other appropriate work qualified.

### **1835. CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A memorandum was received from CSW Broadband asking how best it might keep residents informed of the broadband "roll-out". It was expected that as and when an upgraded service became live all those registered would be advised by e-mail and advice given on arranging a service from an Internet Service Provider and producing flyers to advise when work would be started (but help would be needed to get these delivered). It was agreed to inform CSW that the Parish Council would like to receive all available up-dated details, especially since Broadband reception in Old Milverton was so slow.

### **1836. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(a). There had been no further advice concerning issues relating to Quarry Park, Old Milverton Lane.

(b). The following were noted in accordance with details previously circulated:

*W16/2046 Llandrecies, Church Lane, Old Milverton*

Erection of replacement dwelling

APPEAL had been made against the refusal and it was agreed that the Parish Council's observations on the original Planning Application should still apply.

*W17/0062 Land off Sandy Lane, Blackdown*

Installation of flood- lighting and illumination of path to pavilion and car park

GRANTED.

*W17/0407 Jephson House, Stoneleigh Road, Blackdown*

Change of use to residential flats

PRIOR APPROVAL WAS FOUND NOT TO BE REQUIRED.

Mr. Tom Alexander of Wickstead Lodge was in attendance and was invited to speak on this matter. He indicated that a good many trees, including well established trees, had been removed, which seemed to conflict with the proposal which had been indicated as taking place without external alteration, so perhaps other development was envisaged. Concern was expressed about the loss of the trees. County Councillor Redford had taken up this matter with the Forestry Section of the County Council and the extent of the tree removal was being assessed and the advice of the Forestry Commission obtained. Meanwhile, it was agreed that the Parish Council should ask Warwick District Council to review the area with the purpose of assessing which remaining trees should be made subjects of Tree Preservation Orders.

*W17/0512 Moorfields Rugby Football Club, Kenilworth Road, Blackdown*

Install storage cages for storage of mobile floodlighting columns and providing additional lighting units

GRANTED

*W17/0524 Highfield Barn, Sandy Lane Farm, Old Milverton Lane, Old Milverton*

Single storey extension

REFUSED

*W17/0563 Nuffield Warwickshire Hospital, Old Milverton Lane, Old Milverton*  
Single- and two-storey extension and associated works  
GRANTED

*W17/0798 Woodland Grange, Old Milverton Lane, Old Milverton*  
Extension to residential training centre to provide additional conference facilities and 45 bedroom spaces  
OBSERVATIONS: Objection mainly owing to effect on the Green Belt as professionally expressed by Hunter Page on behalf of the Parish Council.

*W17/0955 Manor Farm, Old Milverton Road, Old Milverton*  
Centralise first floor window in gable wall and replace roof tiles.  
OBSERVATIONS: No objection provided the structural integrity of the building is not compromised [Cllr. Tandy did not participate in the consideration of this application].

*W17/1167 Moorfields Rugby Football Club, Kenilworth Road, Blackdown*  
Change of use of hard standing to hand car wash and extensions of structure for WC's and welfare facilities  
OBSERVATIONS: Details were still being sorted out, but it was agreed that the proposed development would not be appropriate for the area, especially because of its Green Belt status and that Cllr. Lander should be asked to obtain professional advice from Hunter Page on how the Parish Council's objection should most effectively be presented.

#### **1837. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS**

The accounts specified in the schedule provided to Members were approved for payment, including one for £1,200.00 for professional advice in refuting the Park and Ride facilities in the Local Plan; £234.00 for work in Old Milverton including re-staining the village bench, removing the old notice board, making safe the brickwork behind it and installing a new plant barrel; £1,500 grant towards Old Milverton Village Hall maintenance and £1,083.60 for consultancy work in connection with proposed development in Old Milverton

#### **1838. ITEMS FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

It was noted that the Tidy Day on Sunday, 25th. June 2017 had been successful but that the verge in Church Lane had not been cut up to the ditch (which had been left for ecological purposes). However, it now getting "out of hand" and the Clerk had therefore requested the Highways Authority to undertake the work. The outcome was awaited.

#### **1839. ANNUAL REVIEW OF CLERK'S SALARY**

After consideration it was resolved to increase the Clerk's salary by 1% with effect from 1st. July 2017 since this was the current level used nationally for public service. (i.e. from £2,400 per annum to £2,424: an increase of £24).

This prompted a discussion on the adequacy of the Clerk's expenses, most of which were governed by the HMRC without incurring income tax. It was also discussed as to whether the Parish Council should provide a computer for the Clerk, since practices had evolved and the Clerk's personal computer was used for Parish Council business. Discussions would take place to decide on the optimum way forward.

#### **1840. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

CHAIRMAN